

THE TRAGEDY, MR. SPEAKER, IS THAT NOT ONE SINGLE ETHIOPIAN NEEDED TO DIE AS THE RESULT OF THE CURRENT CROP FAILURE.

DONOR GOVERNMENTS HAD RESPONDED GENEROUSLY, AND INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES WERE POISED TO ENSURE DELIVERY TO THOSE HARDEST HIT.

A VARIETY OF CHANNELS WERE FORESEEN - DISTRIBUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY IT, CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE NGOS FROM SUDAN INTO THE REBEL-HELD AREAS OF ERITREA AND TIGRAY, AND RELIEF CORRIDORS CROSSING BATTLE LINES INTO VULNERABLE REBEL-HELD AREAS OF ERITREA, TIGRAY AND WOLLO THAT COULD NOT BE REACHED THROUGH THE CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS.

THIS WAS A COMPLICATED PACKAGE, BUT ONE THAT COULD HAVE WORKED IF TWO ELEMENTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

THE FIRST WAS THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF THE PORT OF MASSAWA FOR THE TRANSHIPMENT OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID SUPPLIES.

THE SECOND WAS AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND REBEL GROUPS TO ALLOW THE SAFE TRANSPORT OF FOOD ACROSS BATTLE LINES.

THE EPLF OFFENSIVE OF FEBRUARY WHICH SAW THE PORT OF MASSAWA FALL INTO REBEL HANDS AND THE CONTINUED UNWILLINGNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA TO ALLOW THE PORT TO BE USED FOR FOOD